

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 00940 191851Z

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7753

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E.O. 11653: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO MO

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 038734

1. AT FAREWELL LUNCHEON GIVEN ME BY FONMIN LARAKI FEB 19
I RAISED MATTER OF ANGOLA. I DREW ON POINTS AS PER INSTRUCTIONS
REFTEL.
2. FONMIN RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO USG SUGGESTION THAT
"MODERATES" SHOULD NOW WORK TO TERMINATE SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE
AND URGE MPLA TO ACHIEVE HARMONY AMONG ANGOLAN FACTIONS.
AT SAME TIME ALTHOUGH GOM AND OTHER MODERATES WOULD DO THEIR
BEST, CAUSE HAD BEEN DEALT BLOW BY US CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
IN REFUSING TO SUPPORT OTHER ANGOLAN FACTIONS. SOVIET-CUBAN
PRESENCE HAD BADLY SHAKEN AFRICA. HE PERSONALLY WAS PESSIMISTIC.
HE SAID HE EXPECTED AFRICA WOULD BE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION
FOR MANY YEARS SINCE HE HAD NO ALLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIETS
NOT PRESSING ON AND FOLLOWING UP ON THEIR SUCCESSES.
3. LARAKI NOTED THAT POLICY BEING ESPOUSED BY USG IS ALSO
POLICY OF FRANCE AND SOME OTHERS WHO HAD RECENTLY HAD TO
CHANGE THEIR POSITIONS AND RECOGNIZE MPLA. HE REMARKED THAT
HE DID NOT FEEL THAT A NETO GOVERNMENT PER SE WOULD BE A
PROBLEM, AS MOROCCO HAS HAD NO TROUBLE WORKING WITH OTHER
SO-CALLED RADICAL GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 RABAT 00940 191851Z

4. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD FONMIN WOULD BE GOING TO ADDIS

MEETING FEB 23. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WAS AND SAID THAT THE ANGOLA PROBLEM WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR HIS PRESENCE.

5. DCM HAD MADE DETAILED PRESENTATION USG VIEWS FEB 18 WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OMAR BELKORA. BELKORA RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO US POSITION NOTING THAT GOM FEB 13 COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING RECOGNITION (RABAT 0861) HAD URGED MPLA TO PURSUE POLICY OF "INDEPENDENCE" AND "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION." HE SAID THAT REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENCE IN COMMUNIQUE HAD MEANT ANGOLA SHOULD RID ITSELF OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS. GOMNHAD MADE THIS PARTICULAR POINT KNOWN TO MPLA (HE DID NOT IDENTIFY WHERE THIS DONE) AT TIME OF ITS ANNOUNCEMENT TO RECOGNIZE.

6. BELKORA SAID THAT TUNISIA, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST AND MOROCCO HAD BEEN COORDINATING POLICY ON ANGOLA QUESTION AND SUGGESTED THAT IVORY COAST'S DECISION TO RECOGNIZE HAD BEEN CRUCIAL IN MOROCCAN DECISION. HE NOTED THAT SENEGAL WAS APPARENTLY HOLDING OUT FOR ITS OWN REASONS, WHICH HE LINKED TO SOME COMMITMENT TO ZAIRE. BELKORA GAVE AS ANOTHER REASON FOR RECOGNITION NOW THE FACT THAT GOM HAD DIFFICULT MEETING COMING UP IN OAU. HE SAID MOROCCO NEEDED ALL THE FRIENDS IT HAS.

7. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.
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